

## **Minutes of the Finance Committee**

**Wednesday, August 5, 2009**

Chair Haukohl called the meeting to order at 8:54 a.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Pat Haukohl (Chair), Bill Zaborowski, Jean Tortomasi, and Rob Hutton. Pamela Meyer arrived at 9:50 a.m. **Absent:** Jim Heinrich and Steve Wimmer.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Policy Advisor Ann Olson, Treasurer Pam Reeves, Collections & Business Services Manager Sean Sander, Administration Director Norm Cummings, Budget Specialist Linda Witkowski, Risk/Purchasing Manager Laura Stauffer, and Principal Risk Management Analyst Mark Jatczak. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Approve Minutes of 7-22-09**

MOTION: Tortomasi moved, second by Zaborowski to approve the minutes of July 22. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Update on In-Rem Foreclosure Actions**

Reeves referred to her report entitled "Properties Acquired in 2009 – Foreclosure of 2005 and Prior Years' Taxes" which she discussed as outlined. Reeves said their court date was in mid-July and they took 12 Waukesha County properties. Reeves explained the process as well and noted that she will return with an update around the beginning of October.

### **Six-Months Collections Report**

Sander discussed his report entitled "Collections Division Delinquent Collection/Referral Analysis: 2009 Six-Months Report." Total six-month collections increased 26.7% from 2008 and 13.3% from 2007. Total collections for the first six months of 2009 were \$1,923,936 and of that amount, the County will retain \$1,350,963. For comparison purposes, these figures for 2008 were \$1,518,246 and \$1,048,884, respectively. Tax intercept collections totaled \$1,096,488 through 6-30-09 versus \$689,483 through 6-30-08. A total of 4,450 tax intercept payments were received on accounts in 2009 compared to 2,701 in 2008. Additional revenue sources identified/implemented by Collections generated \$841,894 of revenues for the County in the first six months of 2009.

Sander noted that we no longer do collections for Lake Country Municipal Court. They are instead contracting with a private company. Sander said the company's fee is lower than ours but he questioned whether they could match our success rates.

MOTION: Hutton moved, second by Zaborowski to accept the six-months report on collections. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Update on Tax Incremental Districts (TID's)**

Cummings advised four TID's are being amended in Menomonee Falls which he is very concerned about due to impacts on the taxpayers. He explained this law which involves transferring tax

money from one TID to another to be used as “business incentives” for retail establishments, e.g., Cabela’s. Cummings said this is a terrible idea and it will result in higher taxes. Village of Menomonee Falls taxpayers with a \$250,000 home will be paying about \$50 more per year for nine years. Cummings does not believe this is legal but there have been no challenges so far. He questions the suggested return on investment and public purpose. Cummings advised of a proposed bill at the state level which concerns him because it will allow TID’s to extend to 40 years. He said it has not been introduced yet but there is huge clout behind it.

Cummings distributed information on the 17 TID’s in Waukesha County including district, TID number, year developed, base value, current value, and increment which he discussed as outlined. TID #5 in the Village of Sussex has been closed out and Hartland created TID #4 which will be on the list next year.

Meyer arrived at 9:50 a.m.

Cummings explained why he voted against TID #1 in Wales which he felt was inappropriate. At Hutton and Haukohl’s suggestion, Cummings said he would put together a report to show which TID’s are expected to close in the near future. He will give an update at the next meeting, primarily on the Menomonee Falls proposals including statistics and impacts. For informational purposes, Cummings distributed copies of “Wisconsin Tax Incremental Financing – A Guide for Joint Review Board Members.”

#### **Six-Months Capital Projects Status Report**

Witkowski highlighted her report entitled “Capital Projects 2009 Six-Months Status Report” which included information on project title, percent of project completed (design, bid, construction), 2009 current appropriations, expenditures encumbered, etc. No major concerns were raised.

MOTION: Tortomasi moved, second by Zaborowski to accept the six-months report on capital projects. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

Haukohl advised the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for August 19. Zaborowski indicated he would not be able to attend.

#### **State Legislative Update**

Krahn distributed copies of his updated legislation chart which includes information on bill number, subject matter, position/recommendation, and status. Krahn highlighted those bills that would likely have a fiscal impact on the County including AJR 65 (supported by the County Executive), AB 130 (supported by the Sheriff), AB 144 (opposed by the Sheriff), AB 149 (opposed by the Treasurer), AB 287 (no position taken), AB 320 (no position taken), AB 347 (no position taken), LRB 1708 (supported by WCA platform), and SB 151 (supported by Health & Human Services).

Krahn advised there are about 16 or 17 OWI bills still waiting for deliberation, probably around September. While the efforts are commendable, it is important to consider the costs involved. Krahn said they will be watching those bills closely. There are some small claims bills pending which would have a fiscal impact on our courts system and will also need to be addressed. The

battle for the 911 surcharge goes on. The governor has been asked to not veto sunset and sunrise language so the .75 fee goes towards what it was originally intended, 911 centers. Because there is a surplus in the Local Government Property Insurance Fund, a bill is pending that states we would not have to pay into the fund for one year which would save the County about \$150,000. Stauffer added that she was not in favor of this bill for a number of reasons which may be discussed further at a later time.

### **Six-Months Claims Report**

Jatzak reviewed the report entitled "Waukesha County Worker's Compensation 2005-2009 Claims History Summary." A total of 51 claims were opened by the end of the six-month period and 31 remained open. The total incurred was \$297,453. Since 2005, 548 claims have opened and 45 remained open as of 7-13-09. The total incurred was \$3,259,439. Jatzak and Stauffer reviewed some of the larger claims that have opened and closed.

Stauffer reviewed the report entitled "Waukesha County Claims History 2005-2009." In the area of general liability, 7 claims were opened by the end of 7-21-09, 2 remained open, and the total incurred was \$2,251. Eight auto liability claims were opened, 3 remained open, and the total incurred was \$32,435. Stauffer said 7 auto physical damage claims were opened, 3 remained open, and a total of \$21,918 was incurred. Regarding property damage, 8 claims were opened, 6 remained open, and a total of \$19,293 was incurred. Since 2005, 502 general liability, auto liability, auto physical damage, and property damage claims have been opened and 49 remained open. The total incurred was \$2,058,300. Stauffer reviewed some of the larger claims that opened and closed.

MOTION: Hutton moved, second by Tortomasi to accept the six-months report on claims. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Meyer moved, second by Hutton to adjourn at 11:34 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on:\_\_\_\_\_

Pamela Meyer  
Secretary